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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
5 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #262 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The several explosions in rebel territory early last evening are being blamed on US troops stationed across the Ozama River from downtown Santo Domingo.

Two members of the United Nations mission report that they witnessed the firing coming from the US-controlled Sans Souci area across the river. They claim that the blasts came from mortar or bazooka fire and that a woman and a young child were killed in the attack. There is as yet no information to confirm or refute the statements of the United Nations representatives, which have been given out to the press. Nevertheless, UN team member Ortiz immediately "presumed" that US forces were responsible. An initial investigation by the US Embassy indicated that there had been no firing by US troops at the time of the explosions and that, in any event, US troops do not use mortars.

The embassy points out that this is the second time that the rebels have alleged that they were the targets of mortar fire. No supporting evidence was produced on the previous occasion nor, as yet, on this occasion.

The rebels continue to use every means at their disposal in an attempt to win international sympathy for their cause. Ruben Brache, the rebels' "representative" at the United Nations, told reporters last night that he is compiling a list containing the names and addresses of 800 persons who he claims have been "executed" by the loyalist Imbert government.

The rebels are receiving heavy propaganda support from the Fidel Castro regime in Havana. A

State Dept. review completed

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Havana television commentary late last night contained highly exaggerated accounts of "uprisings" in various parts of the Dominican interior. These "uprisings" are ascribed to the "natural reaction of a people who want the reestablishment of the constitution...in the face of the brutal acts of terrorism that General Imbert's junta carry out in the interior of the country." Havana is thus pursuing the identical propaganda line as the rebel Caamano government.

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The Ecuadorean ambassador in Santo Domingo told Ambassador Bennett yesterday that he has been receiving reports of friction at rebel headquarters. The Ecuadorean ambassador did not provide any additional details, but the US Embassy points out that he is not inclined to be a rumor monger.

On the loyalist side, there are continuing rumors that ranking leaders of the armed forces are dissatisfied with Imbert's performance. There is still no hard evidence to support the rumors that the military leaders are plotting Imbert's ouster. They are, however, known to have opposed such concessions he has made to the OAS as the demilitarization of the National Palace area earlier this week and the OAS-supervised withdrawal of the bulk of the loyalist forces that had been holding the palace.

Pressure from the military may, in fact, have been responsible for the abrupt shift in the tone

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of Imbert's public pronouncements yesterday. In contrast to the conciliatory stance which he had been publicly professing for most of the week, yesterday Imbert reverted to his earlier hard line. He declared to a group of reporters that he would never step down to facilitate a political compromise and that the best solution would be for the inter-American troops to get out of the way to permit loyalist forces to eliminate the rebels once and for all. Elimination of the "Caamano problem," Imbert said, must precede any acceptable political solution.

There was an obvious lack of coordination among Imbert's propaganda media yesterday on the issue of cooperation with the OAS. One of his radio stations was still expressing his government's willingness to cooperate with the OAS; two other stations were attacking the OAS.

There were no reported disturbances in the interior yesterday, despite the rebel claims of militant support throughout the country. [redacted]

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Meanwhile, Paraguay is preparing to send a contingent of troops to the Inter-American Peace Force. Current plans are for a contingent of some 160 troops to be ready for airlifting to the Dominican Republic during the week of 21 June.

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